



California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture
Pacific Region • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • (855) 270-2722 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov/ca

WEEK ENDING: March 20, 2016
RELEASED: March 21, 2016

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 36 NO. 37

WEATHER

Warming temperatures were a sign of seasonal change. The end of the winter snow season nears with the possible exception of the higher elevations in the north and in the highest elevations of the Sierras. Lows in the mountains, depending on elevation were 10s to 30s, 30s to 40s in the valley, 40s to 50s along the coast from north to south, and 40s to 60s in the desert. Highs were 40s to 60s in the mountains, 50s to 70s along the coast from north to south, 60s to 70s in the valley, and 70s to 90s in the desert.

It was relatively dry for most of the State as a mid-level ridge developed. A few remnant light showers persisted into Monday morning, with various locations around the State receiving up to one tenth of an inch. The mountain snowpack continued to diminish but snow levels were still in healthy shape with many locations reporting more than 4 feet of snow, even in the southern Sierras.

FIELD CROPS

Recent rains continued to benefit winter forage crops, reducing the need for irrigation. Fields were prepped for planting with weather permitting. **Alfalfa** growth was good. **Corn** seed received in advance of spring planting. In Sutter County, field preparation continued to be delayed. In San Joaquin County, **wheat** and other mixed forage were growing.

FRUIT CROPS

In Fresno County, copper and sulfur were applied to **grapes**. Grapevines were pruned and tied. In Madera County, some sulfur applications were done to control early mildew on grapes. Some vineyards were starting to bud-out. Old vineyards continued to be pushed to make way for new plantings. Both mechanical and chemical weed control continued. Orchard maintenance continued but was hampered by the weather. Application of bloom sprays continued in anticipation of more rain. In San Joaquin County, later blooming varieties of **cherries** were still in bloom. In Tulare County, stone fruit trees were nearing the end of the bloom. Many varieties of stone fruit were now leafing out and setting fruit. Recent rains were requiring fungicide applications to protect the bloom and young fruit. **Kiwifruit** and Navel **oranges** continued to be packed for shipment. Recent rains have slowed the citrus harvest and increased fungicide applications to protect the fruit. Some citrus trees were topped, hedge rowed, and skirted, with prunings shredded. Seedless **tangerines** continued to be netted in preparation for the coming citrus bloom period.

NUT CROPS

In Fresno County, pruning was completed in **pistachio** orchards, with trees budding out. In Madera County, the **almond** bloom was over. In Tulare County, **walnut** orchards were leafing and blooming. Pistachios, **pecans**, and walnuts continued to be exported.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Sutter County, planting and cultivation of vegetables for Farmer's Markets continued, though there were delays caused by wet conditions. In San Joaquin County, **asparagus** was harvested and brought to processing facilities for packing. In Monterey County, the harvest of **broccoli** and **cauliflower** began to pick up. **Lettuce** harvest was expected to begin in a couple of weeks. Recent warm rains have led to concerns about mildew. In Fresno County, **tomatoes** and **carrots** were planted. **Onions** were irrigated, weeded, and cultivated. Mazuna **mustard** seed was maturing with a good set. **Arugula** and black **kale** had a good bloom. Green and red kale were beginning to bolt. In Tulare County, broccoli, **cabbage**, cauliflower, carrots, and **Brussels sprouts** were harvested and sold at Farmer's Markets. Summer vegetable fields benefitted from the rainy, warm weather.

LIVESTOCK

Pastures continued to improve and cattle were gaining weight. In Tulare County, range and pasture conditions were excellent, reducing the need for supplemental feed. In Sutter County, beehives remained in prune orchards. In San Joaquin County, beehives were left in cherry orchards to ensure proper pollination took place.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 3/20/2016

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		RAIN DAYS	PRECIPITATION 1/			
	Average Week Ending 3/20/2016	Departure from Normal 2/	High	Low	This Year	Normal Year 2/	This Season	This Week	This Season	Normal Season 2/	Normal Year 2/
					January 1- 3/20/2016	January 1- 3/20/2016	July 1- 3/20/2016	Week Ending 3/20/2016	July 1- 3/20/2016	July 1- 3/20/2016	July 1- June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days 3/ --	-- Inches of Precipitation --			
North Coast											
Eureka WFO	53	4	66	40	5	0	13	0.66	43.14	31.35	38.10
Ukiah	57	6	80	36	13	0	83	0.40	34.11	33.70	38.90
Santa Rosa	57	3	78	37	17	0	67	0.78	28.68	27.15	31.01
Napa State Hosp	58	4	77	40	23	0	68	0.37	23.16	23.04	26.46
Central Coast											
San Francisco	60	7	76	47	32	0	53	0.20	17.66	17.61	20.11
San Jose	60	4	77	43	73	7	47	0.01	12.72	12.81	15.08
Salinas	60	6	78	43	57	0	44	0.11	13.03	11.02	12.91
Monterey	57	4	74	44	40	0	54	0.17	20.54	17.21	20.35
King City Ag	60	6	83	39	40	0	47	0.01	9.66	10.61	12.30
Paso Robles	59	6	81	36	16	0	37	0	9.10	11.47	13.08
Sacramento Valley											
Redding	61	9	82	42	47	0	73	2.46	36.51	27.36	33.52
Red Bluff	60	6	79	41	32	0	65	0.07	23.04	20.18	24.07
Willows 6W	59	6	75	41	24	0	53	0.26	15.54	16.24	19.03
Oroville	59	6	75	41	26	0	70	0.45	20.52	24.37	28.75
Marysville	59	4	76	42	14	2	60	0.18	20.90	18.68	22.07
Sacramento	59	5	77	42	18	0	55	0.37	16.84	15.47	17.93
San Joaquin Valley											
Stockton	58	4	76	41	17	0	56	0.27	15.79	11.67	13.84
Modesto	61	5	78	43	44	14	42	0.14	13.09	10.90	13.12
Merced Macready	58	4	77	39	13	0	43	0.08	10.96	10.47	12.50
Madera	59	5	79	40	36	0	44	0.06	11.68	9.76	11.94
Fresno	61	6	79	44	60	0	50	0.02	13.38	9.26	11.23
Lemoore NAS	60	5	80	37	32	0	34	0.03	5.95	6.51	7.89
Visalia	60	4	78	39	24	1	44	0.06	8.50	9.14	11.03
Bakersfield	63	7	83	45	92	19	28	0.00	3.91	5.31	6.49
Cascade Sierra											
Alturas	44	5	68	24	0	0	87	0.79	12.40	8.41	12.13
Mount Shasta	48	8	71	29	0	0	93	0.57	40.82	32.09	39.16
Blue Canyon	49	10	63	32	0	0	76	2.19	61.71	54.74	66.36
Yosemite Valley	54	9	72	36	0	0	63	0.53	34.07	31.28	37.73
South Coast											
Santa Maria	63	10	80	48	100	0	45	0.35	8.34	11.98	14.01
Santa Barbara	62	6	77	48	61	8	31	0	11.24	15.21	16.93
Oxnard NWS	62	6	81	47	158	16	25	0	8.80	13.93	15.62
Riverside	66	8	89	50	276	60	33	0	8.47	8.81	10.22
Los Angeles	63	6	74	54	160	105	32	0	9.90	11.63	13.15
San Diego	65	6	74	56	226	137	41	0	9.51	9.11	10.77
Southeast Interior											
Bishop	55	7	81	29	0	0	17	0	2.24	4.18	5.02
Daggett	66	9	88	45	156	27	27	0	2.22	3.67	4.17
Lancaster ATC	59	8	83	35	41	0	26	0	6.68	6.56	7.40
Thermal	71	7	94	47	358	189	10	0	2.51	3.29	3.53
Blythe	73	9	95	51	421	165	15	0	1.72	3.74	4.02
Imperial CA	73	10	94	53	430	194	12	0	0.93	2.77	2.96

1/ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice).
2/ Normal periods 1970-2000 used in Departure From Normal calculations.
3/ Total number of days with precipitation events this season.

For more weather information visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.
Copyright 2016: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc.
All rights reserved.